



## Meet Cheryl Stephani

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**CHERYL STEPHANI**  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
CHILDREN'S  
ADMINISTRATION

Cheryl Stephani, a veteran manager of issues regarding children and teens, will take charge of the Children's Administration, effective May 16, 2005.

"I believe Cheryl can help in our mission to keep children safe through statewide consistency in back to basic, solid child welfare work," said Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams, in announcing Stephani as the new assistant secretary of the department's Children's Administration.

"In order to move forward and implement Kids Come First, we must have sound business practices and services that are effective in meeting specific needs of the children and families we serve," she said.

According to Stephani, "I know there are tremendous people who every day perform critical, complicated and sometimes dangerous work to protect children and give families the support and strength they need to succeed in life."

Stephani will be stepping down as assistant secretary for the DSHS Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA), where she led the organization in adopting and implementing evidence-based treatment programs over the past five years. JRA is now recognized as a national leader in providing effective services to youth in the juvenile justice system.

"In JRA, I was fortunate to work with committed leaders and field staff to create and implement a new vision for providing services to some of the most challenging kids in the state. I am looking forward to working with the same kind of dedicated professionals in the Children's Administration as we master the basics of social work and move forward with reforming the child welfare system," Stephani said.

Stephani previously served as special assistant to two former DSHS secretaries, where she focused on children's issues.

"People enter the child welfare arena because they care deeply about children and families. They need the best support the department can provide," Stephani said. "Our workers need the best validated tools for assessment and case planning, the right resources to meet the complex service and treatment needs of children and their families along with strong community partners."

Stephani holds a bachelor's degree from The Evergreen State College.